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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Historical Review of Medical Research/
Medical Personnel Present at University
of Cluj and University of Targu-Mures

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b. The university and medical school at Cluj were constructed after World War I, in about 1922. In conjunction with the medical school the Rumanian Government erected a comparatively large university hospital.

c. This hospital has [1953] facilities and beds to accomodate approximately two thousand patients. Bed arrangement at the hospital is set up on the basis of major illnesses. In other words, so many beds were allotted to each section as follows: (1) internal diseases, (2) tuberculosis, (3) venereal diseases, (4) surgical cases, (5) general ailments, (6) maternity cases.

d. The medical university at Cluj has two separate surgical buildings. One of these was constructed in 1922. The more recent one was erected in 1939. To date [April 1954] no other surgical buildings have been added to the above.

(1) The capacity of the older surgical building is 180 beds. It has three major surgical rooms and two rooms for minor operations.

(2) The new surgical building [1939] has two operating rooms for major surgeries and one for minor operations.

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- (3) In the event of a critical emergency, the surgical facilities at Cluj are such that one hundred major operations can be performed during a twenty-four hour period.

e. About three miles from the campus and grounds of the University of Cluj medical school is a military hospital. [redacted] in 1953 that this hospital was still in existence and, as in pre-Communist days, it still functioned solely for military personnel. Although I am not familiar with the layout of this unit, [redacted] it had a capacity of 250 to 300 beds. Supplements to 1954

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2. History of Research

a. Hospitals and medical facilities in Rumania even prior to Communist control could be considered as semi-socialized. The funds for the medical schools, for research, medicines, facilities, salaries of the faculty and many of the physicians, were all allocated by the state.

b. Direct responsibility for all phases of medicine was centered in the Ministry of Health and Education [Ministerul Sanatatii].

c. Outstanding historical accomplishments attributable to Rumanian medical men in research so far as I can recall are practically nil or non-existent. However, due to the ever-presence of certain predominant diseases, Rumanian research was concentrated primarily in the following fields: (1) venereal diseases, (2) nutrition, (3) public health, (4) internal disorders -- primarily stomach, (5) malaria, (6) tuberculosis.

d. There was no special emphasis placed upon one phase of medical science to the exclusion of another at the Rumanian universities. Pharmacology and physiology each received equal treatment with developments in either field accruing from personal interests of medical researchers rather than through directed research.

e. Nutrition and public health were, in my estimation, far ahead of other fields. This situation prevailed because for many years the general level of public health and sanitation in Rumania was very low, even by Western European standards. As a consequence, during the era between World War I and World War II through the efforts of the US, particularly the Rockefeller Foundation, Rumania began to concentrate on nutrition and public health. There are today [1954] at the University of Cluj a number of former Rumanian Rockefeller Fellows who speak English fluently. These fellows learned a great deal from US technical personnel prior to World War II.

3. Faculty at University of Cluj -- Medical School

a. Nutrition and Public Health

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(1)

(2)

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5. Requirements at University of Cluj

- a. Prior to Communist control of Rumanian schools, the medical faculties wrote the entrance examinations for medical candidates.  although they still write these examinations, successful completion of the examination does not necessarily insure the candidate that he will be accepted. Additional emphasis and interest is expressed relative to the student's economic and political background. In order to fulfill the requirements for the Doctor of Medicine in Rumania, a student must successfully complete 4700 hours of

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medical study. This includes laboratory and clinical work. Before the Communists took over, the student was expected to engage in six years of study and clinical practice before he qualified for the degree. The required number of years had not changed by mid-1953. ()

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- b. Medical students at Cluj since Communist control spend the first four years in constant study. During the fifth year the student is assigned to a hospital where he is expected to thoroughly familiarize himself with the practical application of medicine relative to military methodology. The sixth and final year is spent at the university with the student preparing for final examinations and the diploma. Once the student has received his degree, he is obligated to one year of military service at which time he engages solely in military medicine.

6. Research and Research Facilities

- a. No research institutions relative to medicine existed apart from the universities in 1945. Even prior to Communist control, independent research as we westerners picture it didn't exist in Rumania. Since the Minister of Health and Education controlled and allotted government monies for research, those who engaged in it were dependent fully upon this department for funds and operating capital. With the government primarily emphasizing national advancement in public health and nutrition, there was very little concern for other types of research.
- b. Within the scope of public health tuberculosis and venereal diseases, particularly in 1944 and 1945, were of grave concern. Relative to venereal diseases, incidence in Rumania was always somewhat higher than elsewhere in the Balkans. However, after the USSR forces entered the country it was estimated that at least fifty percent of the population contracted one of the venereal diseases. () we sought other medicines which could be used on a major scale.
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- c. Rumanian capacity for biological and bacteriological research is confined to the universities. () the real source of knowledge and capacity in these two fields are the Rockefeller trained professors working at Institute Pasteur, University of Cluj and a few who are on the staff at Bucharest.
- d. To compare Rumanian scientific research, medical facilities and capabilities with those of the US and the UK is absurd. Rumania oriented her scientific study by and large in the direction of France rather than Germany on whom the remaining Balkan states depended. The majority of foreign professors in Rumanian medicine and science were from France. When Rumanian professors took postgraduate work outside their country, most of them studied in France. I cannot favorably compare the status of Rumanian research with that of Hungary -- let alone the UK and the US.

- 25X1X e. () no modern facilities such as ultra centrifuge, electron microscopes, Tiselius electrophoretic apparatus, Warburg monometers, freeze-drying equipment, deep culture vats, or phase microscopes. () did have ultra microscopes.

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- f. As late as November 1953 there was a dire need of modern drugs. Rumanian citizens, when corresponding with friends or relatives abroad, consistently request cortisone, antibiotics, vitamins and even common bandage.

7. Reference Materials

- a. Up to 1945 the university medical library at Cluj possessed over 800 thousand volumes. Each section of the medical school had a small library which contained volumes relative to its specialized study. The books on the shelves in order of quantity were Hungarian, Rumanian, French, German and English.

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- b. Two medical journals which were easily obtained up to 1945 were the Rumanian publication Revista Medical /Medical Review/ and the Hungarian Orvosi Szemle /Medical Review/.

8. Medical School -- Targu-Mures

- a. [redacted] final construction of the medical university at Targu-Mures took place in 1946. This university which is located one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles east of Cluj follows the usual pattern of Rumanian medical schools. The university hospital has from 250 to 300 beds.

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b. [redacted]

9. Status of Various Diseases

- a. According to letters received as late as mid-1952 malaria was as prevalent as in pre-Communist days, particularly in the Black Sea region.

- b. Tuberculosis was on the increase [redacted] much of it could be attributed to malnutrition.

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- c. Typhus was existent chiefly in Moldavia.

- d. Several cases of leprosy have been mentioned in correspondence.

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